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**GROUND FORCES REALIGNMENT  
AND EQUIPMENT IMPROVEMENTS  
IN THE KIEV MILITARY DISTRICT  
USSR (S)**

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## GROUND FORCES REALIGNMENT AND EQUIPMENT IMPROVEMENTS IN THE KIEV MILITARY DISTRICT, USSR (S)

### INTRODUCTION

1. [ ] This report presents an imagery-derived analysis of changes in unit locations and the identification of divisional units, probable mobilization units, and an Army-/front-level unit in the Kiev Military District (MD; Figure 1). In addition, a brief discussion of Czechoslovakian and new Soviet bridging equipment, recently deployed with combat units within the Kiev MD, is presented. The report contains one map and nine annotated photographs.

### DESCRIPTION

#### Ground Forces Realignment

2. [ ] Recent photography of the Dnepropetrovsk and Volnoye areas indicates that two tank divisions garrisoned in this locale are undergoing unusual and major unit realignment. The two divisions were previously housed at four installations: Dnepropetrovsk Army Barracks AL-2 [ ] Figure 2), Dnepropetrovsk Army Barracks Central AL-1 [ ] Figure 3), Volnoye Army Barracks AL-1/Reserve Equipment Storage [ ] Figure 4), and Volnoye Army Barracks Samara River North AL-2 [ ] Figure 5). Photographic coverage between October 1975 and December 1977 suggests that several units of these two divisions are now mixed and housed together at three installations. Dnepropetrovsk Army Barracks AL-2 no longer supports any combat units.

3. [ ] Between October 1975 and May 1976, the first evidence of change at Dnepropetrovsk was observed. During this period, three vehicle storage buildings in the southwest corner of Dnepropetrovsk Army Barracks AL-2 were removed and a large apartment building was constructed in their place. No further activity was noted at this installation until March 1977 when the artillery and antiaircraft artillery (AAA) regiments usually seen there were missing, and additional vehicle storage buildings were being dismantled. By September 1977 the chemical defense battalion was also missing, and at least 50 percent of the vehicle storage buildings had been razed.



FIGURE 1. LOCATIONS OF GROUND FORCES IN KIEV MILITARY DISTRICT, USSR

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In late October 1977 several more buildings had been removed, leaving only the barracks and administration area intact. A foundation for a large probable apartment building (Figure 2) was seen in the cleared area at this time.

4. [ ] During this same period, a corresponding increase in artillery and AAA pieces was observed at Dnepropetrovsk Army Barracks Central AL-1 (Figure 3) [ ]

[ ] the artillery and AAA regiments of both tank divisions are now housed together at this installation. [ ] elements of a probable chemical defense battalion were observed for the first time at Volnoye Army Barracks AL-1/Reserve Equipment Storage. The chemical defense equipment (Figure 4) was parked in a separately fenced area and included three BRDM RKH, one TMS-65, two probable DDA-53, and 31 ARS-14 decontamination vehicles. It cannot be determined if this equipment is a part of the unit formerly at Dnepropetrovsk Army Barracks AL-2.

5. [ ] The motorized rifle regiments (MRRs) for these divisions cannot be confirmed at this time. However, equipment usually associated with motorized rifle units was in a separately fenced area at Volnoye Army Barracks AL-1/Reserve Equipment Storage (Figure 4). The equipment in this vehicle park included eight BRDM-SAGGER/-SWATTER launch vehicles, forty-three 100mm T-12/12A antitank guns, eight ZSU-57/2 self-propelled AA guns, eight ZPU-4 heavy AA machineguns, and seven 120mm mortars. No armored personnel carriers (APCs) were present. Volnoye Army Barracks AL-1/Reserve Equipment Storage also contains three tank regiments, a heavy lift regiment, and a reserve equipment storage area of tanks and assault guns.

#### Probable Mobilization Units

6. [ ] four probable mobilization units were observed in Dneprodzerzhinsk and Volnoye.

7. [ ] Three units were at Volnoye Army Barracks Samara River North AL-2 (Figures 5 and 6). The subordination of these units is presently undetermined. All three units were parked in a doubly secured, general storage area approximately 1.25 nautical miles north-northeast of the main portion of the installation. The units included an antitank battalion with at least eighteen 100mm T-12/12A antitank guns; an AAA regiment with twenty-four 57mm S-60 antiaircraft guns, eight AT-S tracked prime movers, and 30 AT-L light-tracked artillery tractors; and a multiple-rocket-launcher battalion with 18 BM-24 240mm rocket launchers on AT-S chassis.

8. [ ] The main portion of the army barracks houses three tank regiments. It is adjacent to Volnoye Training Area 1 Samara River [ ]

9. [ ] The fourth probable mobilization unit, an engineer battalion, was at Dneprodzerzhinsk Army Barracks AL-1 [ ] (Figure 7). Equipment at this installation included 16 PMP heavy-folding ponton bridges, 11 PTS tracked amphibious transporters, six GSP heavy amphibious ferries, four TMM truck-mounted scissors bridges, and at least 55 additional vehicles and pieces of equipment. The presence of the antitank battalion with the other three units suggests the existence of a mobilization division in this area.

#### Army-/Front-Level Engineering Regiment/Brigade

10. [ ] An Army-/front-level engineering regiment/brigade was identified at Dneprodzerzhinsk Army Barracks AL-2 [ ] (Figure 8). Equipment present included 35 GSP heavy amphibious ferries, 31 PTS tracked amphibious transporters, 36 PMP heavy-folding ponton bridges, and at least 260 associated vehicles and pieces of equipment.

#### Czechoslovakian MT-55 Tank-Launched Scissors Bridge

11. [ ] at least six Czechoslovakian MT-55 tank-launched scissors bridges (Figure 9, only three annotated) were identified for the first time with a combat unit in the Soviet Union. The MT-55s were collocated with the three tank regiments at Volnoye Army Barracks AL-1/Reserve Equipment Storage. They were parked adjacent to the T54 MTU and MTU-20 (formerly designated T55 MTU) tank-launched assault bridges and appeared to augment the engineer companies of the tank regiments.

12. [ ] The MT-55 is a treadway-type scissors bridge, similar to the design used by the United States and East Germany. The MT-55 is deployed throughout East Europe with both national and Soviet forces, instead of the Soviet MTU-20.

#### New Soviet Probable Medium-Class Bridge

13. [ ] A new Soviet, probable medium-class bridge (Figure 10) was identified at Akhtyrka Army Barracks AL-1 [ ] which houses a nondivisional engineering unit, and at Akhtyrka Training Area [ ] Eighteen new bridge sections were present in the vehicle park of each installation.

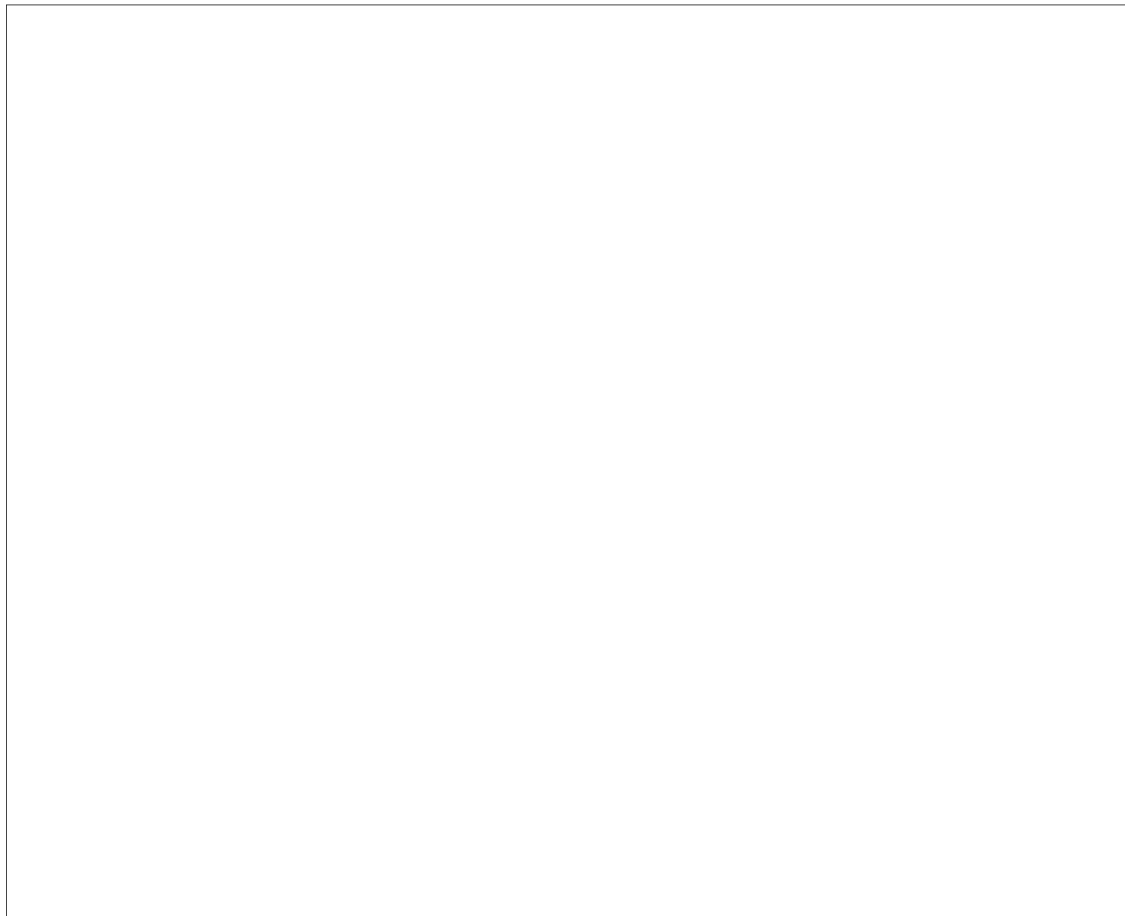
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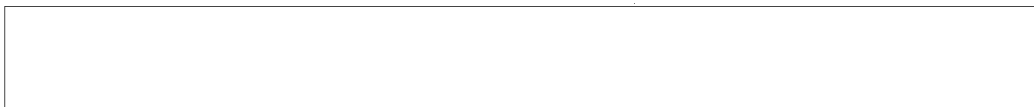
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14. [redacted] The new bridge is similar in design and function to the TMM truck-mounted scissors bridge, but it is similar in appearance to the KMM truck-mounted treadway bridge. It is the first new truck-mounted tactical bridge to be introduced since the TMM bridge in 1964.

15. [redacted] The presence of the bridges at Akhtyrka marks the second deployment of this piece of equipment in the Soviet Union and indicates that the new bridge is being deployed with nondivisional engineering units. The first deployment was at Bobruysk Headquarters Tank Army/Tank Division/Army Barracks AL-2 [redacted] in September 1974.

## REFERENCES



## MAPS OR CHARTS

US Air Target Chart, Series 200, Sheets 0234-11 and -21, scale 1:200,000 (SECRET)

General Basic Information, European USSR and the Caucasus, scale 1:6,500,000 (UNCLASSIFIED)

## REQUIREMENT

Project 143490NM



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